GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2658
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
MINISTER`S VISIT TO GERMANY
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;SHIVAJI MANE;SHYAMA SINGH;SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of discussions held during his recent visit to Germany and Saudi Arabia;

(b) The details of MOUs signed, Sector-Wise, Country-wise;

(c) Whether agreements in regard to drug trafficking and extradition of criminals were also signed.

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether Kashmir issue also came up for discussion;

(f) If so, the details thereof including the reaction of both Germany and Saudi Arabia thereto;
g) Whether Minister of Home Affairs and Finance also visited Germany recently; and
h) If so, the purpose of their visit and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) During his visit to Germany from 17-18 January 2001 EAM met Vice Chancellor & Foreign Minister Joschka Fisher, Governing Mayor of Berlin Eberhard Diepgin and prominent German Parliamentarians. The discussions focussed on bilateral, regional and global issues of common concern to both India and Germany. During the visit to Saudi Arabia on 20-21 January, 2001, a meeting was held with His Majesty King Fahd.Wide ranging discussions were held with HRH Crown Prince Abdullah, HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal Foreign Minister and HRH Prince Salman, Governor of Central ProvinceImprovement in Indo-Saudi relations was stressed in all meetings, paving the way for strengthening the existing bilateral relations with a focus on economic co-operation

(b) to (d) No MOU or agreement was signed with Germany during this visit. However, w.r.t. Saudi Arabia, MOU on Co-operation in Combating Crime has been agreed to in principle and will be ready for signing as soon as the procedural formalities are completed by the Government of Saudi Arabia. An MOU for regular Foreign Office Consultations was also signed which provides for exchange of views on political matters at the senior officials level.

(e) & (f) Yes, Sir. EAM during his meetings, both with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and with Saudi Foreign Minister and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia highlighted the threat of cross-border terrorism, emanating from India`s neighbourhood, to peace and stability in Jammu & Kashmir. Government of India`s efforts in this direction were appreciated.

(g) & (h) Finance Minister visited Germany on April 10-11, 2000 in his capacity as the co-Chairman ofthe 14th meeting of the Indo-German Joint Commission. The Joint Commission discussed various issues of bilateral, economic and commercial interests, especially ways to increase bilateral trade & investment. Civil Aviation, Infrastructure and knowledge based industries also figured prominently in the discussions. Minister of Home Affairs has not recently visited Germany.